



MEETING OF THE WESTLAND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY
City of Westland
Minutes
Westland City Hall – 36300 Warren Rd
Council Conference Room
Friday September 18th, 2020
9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Farsakian, Newton, Arminiak (phone-in call) Phoenix, El Gharib, Anderson, Block

Members Absent: White, Montayne, Spisak

Also Present: Aubrey Berman- Economic Development Director, Nicole Jones Administrative, Christine Ross

Farsakian called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

A motion was made by Phoenix and supported by El Gharib, to approve minutes from the meeting on Friday June 19th, 2020..

Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Anderson and supported by Newton, to approve the ratification of the vouchers in the amount of \$5,370.00.

Highland Landscape, Inc. \$480.00

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Miller, Canfield, Paddock \$3,450.00

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Motion carried unanimously.

Director Comments:

Berman updated the board of the Garden City Hospital Project, which is an eleven million dollar project slated to open in October of this year.

Berman also updated board on the process of reviewing the marijuana proposals, no updates as of yet, but she did want to note that it may impact the LDFA district as it may generate additional tax revenue.

Berman updated the board on the status of the Westland CARES Small Business Grants as well as the grants available by Wayne County. She, stated the small business grant program was a great success, and the business who were able to take part in the grant program (receiving between \$1k-\$10k) expressed their gratitude for that grant money.

Berman directed the board's attention to the current labor shortage crisis that local businesses are experiencing, pointing out there was a recent job fair held at City Hall for US Farathane and, the company needs to fill 100 positions in the immediate future. Also, another local business US Ice, will have 100 positions to fill once their project is complete. She stated that this is a severe situation and asked the board for their help in spreading the word, that there is a dire need for employment.

Berman stated that she is currently in the process of putting together a proposal for Buxton Software. This software would give access to information that would help existing businesses with their marketing efforts and strategic decision making and also help to fill vacancies in order to combat the potential for blight in the community.

Board Members Comments:

Anderson stated that Wayne County Small Business Grants have been awarded and Westland businesses received the largest amount of funding at \$762k.

Armniak added that they are back, face to face with the career program. They are up and moving to deliver curriculum for their students. There is a special program in place for essential workers who do not have a degree. Enrollment opportunity for that will be in the spring.

Anderson stated that certain county operations have resumed, while others remain closed and some are conducting business virtually or by appointment only.

Newton added that the small school where she works at in Ann Arbor, has been opened for 3 weeks now and there has been zero cases (Covid-19) out of the 56 students.

Citizens Comments: none

A motion was made by Newton and supported by Anderson to adjourn at 9:39 a.m.

Motion carried unanimously